

THE PRESIDENT'S GREETING ON ARRIVAL

Thank you, Admiral Turner

--Visited here briefly on the occasion of your swearing-in last March.

--In interim with use of CIA product have a much better appreciation of what is done here.

--Wanted to see firsthand where best intelligence in world is produced - meet the people who produce it - tell them what a splendid job they are doing.

--Thank you and let's proceed.

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN
AUDITORIUM, AUGUST 1978

- Visited seventeen months (9 March 1977) ago to attend swearing-in of Admiral Turner as Director of Central Intelligence. Pleased to have this opportunity to visit with the men and women of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Intelligence work is often misunderstood in this country. Even the name CIA evokes varied and sometimes adverse emotions among many people.
- Highly respect the work you do and your dedication to it. President knows better than anyone else that this country has best intelligence in the world.
- Satisfied that each intelligence dollar is wisely spent.
- Some have alleged CIA conclusions are tailored to political objectives of this administration. Nothing is further from the truth. CIA is the one independent intelligence agency on whose judgments and estimates the President relies on to be completely objective. CIA dedication to objectivity is a tribute to its professionalism.

--The people of CIA shoulder great responsibility. Day after day they provide the President and other policymakers with the best possible intelligence product. Publications the President sees daily are vital to making well-informed policy decisions.

--While thinking highly of intelligence products, also mindful of the underlying collection effort. Our technical collection capability is unparalleled. No technical system can look inside men's heads and gauge their intentions. In today's lesser developed countries, where technical advantage often means little, there is no substitute for a man or woman on the ground - the skilled human collector. The men and women of the Directorate of Operations perform this vital service.

--Unauthorized leaks of classified information have devastating effects. When sensitive secrets compromised--intelligence sources and methods revealed--lives are endangered, years of patient cultivation of sources and irreplaceable human intelligence are lost, and this country's technical superiority is reduced.

--We have joint responsibility to guard legitimate secrets necessary for national security against the demand for openness in a free society. Appreciate important contributions Agency is making on vital issues, and applaud efforts to share as much as possible with American public in the form of unclassified research.

--Executive Order 12036 issued January 26, 1978 clarified significantly the organizational structure and the responsibilities and limitations of intelligence activities. Now working with Congress on legislation that will incorporate and strengthen the Executive Order.

--Praise CIA professionalism--appreciate continued support.

--Questions and answers.